

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 0071

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM PGOV CI
SUBJECT: PINOCHET SAYS NO MORE ELECTIONS

REF: SANTIAGO 0041

1. SUMMARY: PRESIDENT PINOCHET MADE THREE PUBLIC APPEARANCES DURING THE COURSE OF THE EVENING JANUARY 4. ALTHOUGH HE VARIED THE STRESS AND SOME OF THE DETAILS ON EACH OCCASION, HE MADE THE FOLLOWING MAJOR POINTS: HE WILL WRITE UNSYG WALDHEIM AND TELL HIM WHAT CHILE'S POLICY TOWARD THE UN ON HUMAN RIGHTS MATTERS WILL BE; CHILE WILL ADOPT A NEW, AGGRESSIVE FOREIGN POLICY KEYNOTED BY VISITS OF A SPECIAL DELEGATION TO LATIN AMERICA AND THE US; THE RAPID RESURGENCE OF TRADITIONAL POLITICKING PROVES THAT CHILE IS NOT READY FOR ELECTIONS (INCLUDING "CONSULTATIONS") FOR YEARS; AND THE GOC WILL LOOK FOR INCREASED SUPPORT FROM AND COMMUNICATION WITH THE CIVILIAN POPULATION. NETTED OUT, PINOCHET INSPITE OF CHEST POUNDING ATMOSPHERICS APPEARED TO SAY LITTLE NEW, CLEARLY HE INTENDED TO QUASH HOPES FOR FURTHER VOTING BEFORE THEY BEGAN TO GROW. END SUMMARY.

2. HIGHPOINT OF PINOCHET'S THREE APPEARANCES AFTER THE
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VOTING RESULTS STARTED TO COME IN (A PRESS CONFERENCE, AN INFORMAL CHAT, AND ONE APPEARANCE OUTSIDE DIEGO PORTALES) WAS HIS VICTORY FLUSHED HARANGUE TO A ROARING CROWD OF SUPPORTERS AT 10 P.M. (REFTEL'S PARA 5). PINOCHET SAID THAT HE WOULD WRITE UNSYG WALDHEIM JANUARY 5 TO MAKE CLEAR THAT "WE DO NOT WANT ANY MORE COMMITTEES TO EXAMINE US" AND TO SUGGEST THAT UNHRC AD HOC WORKING GROUP CHAIR-

MAN ALLANA GO BACK TO PAKISTAN "WHERE HE WILL HAVE MORE TO DO SINCE HE WILL FIND 50,000 POLITICAL PRISONERS."

(COMMENT: EARLIER IN THE EVENING PINOCHET HAD TOLD THE PRESS THAT ALLANA COULD NOT ENTER CHILE UNTIL CERTAIN RULES OF THE GAME HAD BEEN AGREED UPON. THAT HAS BEEN THE TRADITIONAL CHILEAN POSITION AND PINOCHET MAY HAVE BEEN INDULGING IN SOME THEATRICALS AT THE SUBSEQUENT PERFORMANCE.)

3. PINOCHET TOLD THE DIEGO PORTALES CROWD "THERE WILL BE NO MORE ELECTIONS OR CONSULTATIONS FOR A DECADE." "WHEN THE DOOR CRACKED OPEN JUST AN INCH," HE SAID, "THE POLITICIANS SQUEEZED THROUGH LOOKING FOR THEIR SINECURES OF OLD. NOW THEY ARE FINISHED." (COMMENT: EARLIER, AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE, PINOCHET HAD SAID NO MORE ELECTIONS UNTIL '86 -- THE OUTSIDE LIMIT OF HIS PROPOSED TRANSITION PLAN. EITHER WAY HE GAVE NO INDICATION OF GIVE IN THE TRANSITION TIMETABLE.) ASKED AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE IF THIS VOTE OF CONFIDENCE WOULD ALLOW AN END TO EMERGENCY POWER RULE, PINOCHET SAID "NO. IT IS NEEDED TO RETAIN DOMESTIC TRANQUILITY."

4. THE ONLY REFERENCE TO THE US CAME WHEN THE PRESIDENT SPOKE OF A NEWLY AGGRESSIVE CHILEAN FOREIGN POLICY WHICH WOULD INCLUDE SENDING A DELEGATION TO SOUTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE US TO EXPLAIN THE CHILEAN REALITY. MEN-
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TION OF THE US PROVOKED BOOS AND HISSES IN THE CROWD.

5. INTERSPERSED AMONG HIS VARIOUS APPEARANCES WERE ALLUSIONS TO BETTER GOVERNMENT/CIVILIAN AND MILITARY/CIVILIAN COMMUNICATION. HE TOLD HIS SUPPORTERS THAT "NOW WE MUST ORGANIZE THE SUPPORT YOU HAVE SHOWN FOR CHILE BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT NEEDS A BASE THAT THE CITIZENRY SUPPORTS." AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE, HOWEVER, PINOCHET HAD BEEN NONCOMMITTAL AS TO WHETHER HE WOULD GRANT MORE CIVILIAN PARTICIPATION IN HIS GOVERNMENT. (COMMENT: HE MAY HAVE BEEN HINTING AT THE ACTIVE DEVELOPMENT OF A MASS CIVILIAN SUPPORT MOVEMENT WHICH HAS BEEN LIMPING ALONG UP TO NOW WITHOUT GREAT GOC SUPPORT.)

6. COMMENT: PINOCHET CLEARLY FEELS THAT HE WAS A WINNER IN THE CONSULTA AND IS FLUSHED WITH VICTORY. IN THIS MOOD HE IS UNPREDICTABLE. HIS VARIOUS ADVISORS ARE COMPETING FOR HIS EAR IN ATTEMPTS TO INFLUENCE WHATEVER NEW DIRECTIONS HE MAY HAVE IN MIND. WE WILL BE WATCHING CLOSELY FOR SIGNS OF HOW THE SITUATION WILL EVOLVE.
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